

Public space

Category:	Community	Version:	1
Date of Issue:	01-11-08	Contact:	Operations Team Coordinator

Purpose

To provide guidance on providing safe public space for the outdoor leisure pursuits and functions of the community, which, in turn, educates the public on sustainable living.

For the purposes of this policy, public space is defined as any part of the Northey Street City Farm lease area available for the informal use of the public, or formal use by an organisation, including walkways, lawn areas, children's play equipment and the furniture under the mango tree. It also includes the kitchen and toilet facilities during The Farm's opening hours, but not the chicken coop, garden plots, composting areas, office buildings or the Nursery (unless by negotiation).

Policy

1. The Farm encourages the public and community organisations to use its space for activities that are compatible with The Farm's goals and objectives and nurture a sense of community. All people are welcome, all behaviour is not. All visitors are welcome in line with The Farm's Inclusion Policy.
2. The Farm recognises the passion and sense of belonging that indigenous members of both The Farm and the wider community feel for this land. Our relationship with our brothers and sisters will reflect respect and understanding of this, whatever our dealings.
3. The Farm recognises the right of citizens to free assembly and protest and will not unduly restrict access to the exterior public space for these purposes. Prior permission, which will not be unreasonably withheld, is required for all organised group activity on Farm public space. Please contact the Community Engagement Worker in the first instance.
4. All children under the age of 18 years who wish to volunteer should be supervised and are the responsibility of their carer at all times. Appropriate signage will be on display to indicate this.

Procedures

1. Distribution of commercial information on Farm property will only be allowed in conjunction with the Sunday Markets provided it meets Market Guidelines and overall Farm ethical practices. This is managed by the Market Coordinator. No commercial activity aimed at users is permitted within The Farm grounds, although an information flyer may be posted on the community notice board.
2. Even though The Farm is an open public area, in the interests of safety and security for members, volunteers and staff, if people continue to disrespect the space with destructive, abusive, violent or other inappropriate behaviour they will be requested to leave. In extreme cases, this may be followed up with a call to police and/or a trespass order.
3. If any issues or disturbance are the result of conflict between Farm staff and/or members, then The Farm Conflict Resolution Policy applies.
4. Unlawful behavior is referred directly to the police. However, if behavioural issues involve indigenous members of our community, the first call should be to the Community Liaison Officer. Appropriate phone numbers are listed on the office notice board. The decision on who is contacted and when, is at the discretion of the team and activity leaders there at the time.

